

**Newhalen Tribal Council
P.O. Box 207
Newhalen, Alaska 99606
(907) 571-1410**

October 10, 2010

Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
Phone: (206)553-1200 (800) 424-4372
Fax: (206) 553-2955

Re: Clean Water Act 404(c) process to prohibit certain lands from use as a disposal site for dredged or fill material

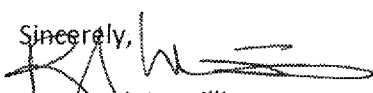
Dear Mr. McLerran;

The Newhalen Tribal Council is located near the Pebble deposit in the Iliamna Lake. We believe that it is too early to draw conclusions about the Pebble project. To use antiquated mining practices that were the rule of thumb prior to the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to judge mines today is nothing more than scare tactics to drive away sustainable resource development projects that are much needed for the security of our Nation as well as providing much needed jobs in poverty stricken areas in Bristol Bay.

We are writing you because we believe that letters to the EPA from Bristol Bay organizations like the Bristol Bay Native Corporation urging the EPA to invoke under its authority from Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act circumvent the public process. When representatives from our village corporation, the Alaska Peninsula Corporation (APC) met with EPA representatives in Washington DC in 2006, they were assured that it was "Not the loudest voice but the best science" that would determine the future of projects like Pebble.

We feel that it is imperative that you hear our views and we are proposing that we go to either Seattle or Washington in the near future to express to you our position so that there is no misunderstanding about our views on sustainable resource development. We are puzzled by the effort by the anti mine zealots seeking action to stop Pebble at this early juncture. We believe that the permitting process will determine whether the mine can co-exist with other uses of the land in Iliamna. To condemn a project even before it files its feasibility study and application for permits is irresponsible.

Sincerely,



Raymond Wassillie
President